

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 /067 W

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R 081354Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4024

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, MPOL, QN

SUBJ: PRISON TOURS

REF: 76 MONTEVIDEO 2138, 76 STATE 148536

1. SUMMARY. FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHES ACCREDITED TO URUGUAY, INCLUDING THOSE RESIDENT IN BUENOS AIRES, INVISED ON SHORT NOTICE VISIT MILITARY RECLUSION CENTER NO. 2 (PUNTA RIELES) JUNE 8. I HAVE AUTHORIZED ONE OF OUR ATTACHES TO ATTEND FOR REASONS CITED BELOW, BUT WOULD OF COURSE NOT ACCEPT SIMILAR INVITATION MYSELF IN FUTURE WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY

2. WITH EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE, URUGUAYAN ARMY, MEETING REQUEST OF FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHES FOR PROGRAM OF SCHEDULED VISITS TO MILITARY UNITS, ISSUED INVITATIONS TO FOREIGN ATTACHES, INCLUDING THOSE RESIDENT BUENOS AIRES, TO SERIES OF VISITS TO UNITS AND MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS OF WHICH FIRST WILL BE ON JUNE 8 TO MILITARY RECLUSION CENTER NO. 2 AT PUNTA RIELES (FEMALE DETENTION CENTER FOR THOSE CHARGED WITH OR SENTENCED FOR SUBVERSION). MALE DETENTION CENTER AT LA LIBERTAD IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER.

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3. WHILE I AM WELL AWARE OF EXCHANGE OF COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT UNDER REFERENCE, AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT INVITATION MYSELF WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH DEPARTMENT, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT NON-SHOW IN GROUP OF ATTACHES WOULD NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE AND WOULD NOT ASSIST IN OBTAINING OUR EVENTUAL GOAL, I.E. INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION. PREVIOUS VISITS BY ATTACHES WERE NOT MENTIONED IN PRESS AND THERE

WAS NO ATTEMPT TO USE VISITS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES.

4. ANOTHER FACTOR IS THAT OPENING GIVEN TO ME WEEK OR SO AGO, WHICH COULD LEAD TO ARRANGEMENT BY WHICH INQUIRIES COULD BE MADE RE CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF URUGUAYAN DETAINEES IN WHICH A HIGH-LEVEL USG INTEREST HAS BEEN EXPRESSED. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THIS OPENING CLOSED BY CONTINUED REFUSAL TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION EXTENDED--I BELIEVE--IN GOOD FAITH. I ALSO REALIZE THAT PROBLEM RESTS MORE WITH WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN TIME PERSON IS DETAINED AND TIME HE OR SHE REACHES A DETENTION CENTER SUCH AS PUNTA RIELES, BUT VISUAL IMPRESSION OF LATTER IS, I BELIEVE, IMPORTANT, AND THAT VIEW IS ALSO SHARED BY MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES HERE WHO ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS.

5. ALTHOUGH INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL THREE ATTACHED, I HAVE INSTRUCTED THAT ONLY ONE GO, THAT HE MAKE NO COMMENT WHATSOEVER ON CONDITIONS OBSERVED, AND THAT IF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, HE EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR INVITATION BUT OBSERVE THAT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN URUGUAY AS RELATED TO ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED THROUGH ACCEPTING VISIT BY AN INTERNATIONAL BODY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. UNLESS INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED TO CONTRARY, I INTEND TO AUTHORIZE ONE ATTACHE ALSO TO VISIT LA LIBERTAD AS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER.

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Message Attributes

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